

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (currently amended) A method for interleaving print jobs, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a non-printer computing device;

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~~breaking down~~ partitioning at least one of said original print jobs into a plurality of ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs with said non-printer computing device;

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tagging said plurality of ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs with an output mode code wherein said output mode code is the same for all ~~said smaller~~ sub-jobs originating from the same original print job; and

generating a combined print job, wherein said generating comprises interleaving said ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs and any remaining original print jobs ~~in an alternating sequence of print jobs with said non-printer computing device;~~ ~~and~~

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~~sending said alternating sequence of print jobs to a printer in said sequence.~~

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said non-printer computing device is a ~~client~~ computing device.

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3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said non-printer computing device is a network print server.

4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said partitioning
~~breaking down~~ is performed by a software print system component in
an operating system print server.
- 55 6. (canceled)
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said print
system component is independent of an operating system print driver.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said print
system component is a network print spooler that is independent of a
60 printer.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said print
system component is a network print driver.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~breaking~~
~~down~~ partitioning results in sub-jobs of approximately equal size.
- 65 11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~breaking~~
~~down~~ partitioning results in sub-jobs of approximately equal printing
time.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~alternating~~
~~sequence~~ interleaving places sub-jobs originating from smaller original
70 print jobs toward the front of the print order.
13. (currently amended) A method for interleaving print jobs, said
method comprising:
- receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a non-printer, print
system component before said original print jobs arrive at a printer;

75 ~~breaking down~~ partitioning at least one of said original print jobs into a plurality of ~~smaller~~-sub-jobs with said print system component;

 tagging said plurality of ~~smaller~~-sub-jobs with an output mode code wherein said output mode code is the same for all ~~said smaller~~
80 sub-jobs originating from the same original print job;

generating a combined print job, wherein said generating comprises interleaving said ~~smaller~~-sub-jobs and any remaining original print jobs ~~in an alternating sequence of print jobs~~ with said print system component; ~~and~~

85 ~~sending said alternating sequence of print jobs to a printer in said sequence.~~

14. (currently amended) A method for reducing printing delay of smaller print jobs in a print queue, said method comprising:

 receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a print system
90 component before said original print jobs arrive at a printer, said plurality of original print jobs comprising at least one larger print job and at least one smaller print job;

~~breaking down~~ partitioning said larger original print job into a plurality of smaller sub-jobs;

95 tagging said smaller sub-jobs with an output mode code;

forming a combined print job, wherein said forming comprises interleaving said sub-jobs with said smaller original print job, ~~in an alternating sequence; and~~

100 ~~sending said sub-jobs and said smaller original print job to a
printer in said sequence.~~

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising
~~breaking down~~ partitioning said smaller original print job into ~~smaller~~
sub-jobs and wherein said interleaving comprises interleaving said
105 ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs from said larger print job with said ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs
from said smaller print job.

16. (currently amended) A system for interleaving print jobs before said
print jobs arrive at a printer, said system comprising:

 a receiver for receiving a plurality of original print jobs, before
said original print jobs arrive at a printer;

110 a partitioner for ~~breaking down~~ partitioning at least one of said
original print jobs into a plurality of ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs;

 a tagger for tagging said plurality of ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs with an
output mode code wherein said output mode code is the same for all
said ~~smaller~~ sub-jobs originating from the same original print job;

115 a combiner for forming a combined print job, wherein said
combiner comprises an interleaver for interleaving said smaller sub-
jobs and any remaining original print jobs, in an alternating sequence
of print jobs; and

~~a sender for sending said alternating sequence of combined~~
120 ~~print jobs sub-jobs to a printer.~~

17. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising
instructions for performing functions within a non-printer, print system
component, said instructions comprising the acts of:

125 receiving a plurality of original print jobs at a print system
component before said original print jobs arrive at a printer;

~~breaking down~~ partitioning at least one of said original print jobs into a plurality of ~~smaller~~-sub-jobs;

130 tagging said plurality of ~~smaller~~-sub-jobs with an output mode code wherein said output mode code is the same for all ~~said smaller~~ sub-jobs originating from the same original print job;

forming a combined print job, wherein said forming comprises interleaving said smaller sub-jobs with any remaining original print jobs, ~~in an alternating sequence of print jobs; and~~

135 ~~sending said alternating sequence of print jobs to a printer in~~
~~said sequence.~~

18. (canceled)